

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please amend paragraph 8 at page 2, paragraph 27 at page 5 and paragraph 32 at page 8 of the specification as follows:

--[0008] In one aspect of the invention, the jaws have aligned blade sections at the working edges that ~~[[taper]]~~ angle from the working edge in at least two oblique angles with respect to the working edge.--

--[0027] The working edges 26 and 27 also define a curved, multi-angled blade section 36 near the hinge point. In particular, referring to FIG. 3, the working edges 26 and 27 have two acute angled oblique surfaces 38 and 40 and 39 and 41, respectively. Surfaces 38 and 39 ~~[[taper]]~~ angle back from their respective working edges 26 and 27 at a relatively flat angle, preferably 15 degrees from ~~horizontal~~ the inside of the working edges 26 and 27. Surfaces 38 and 39 extend at this flat angle very small distances, on the order of several thousandths of an inch, preferably 0.03 inches. Surfaces 40 and 41 extend away from these flat angled surfaces at sharper angles, such as 45 degrees from surfaces 38 and 39. This multi-angled blade configuration widens the tips (while maintaining sharp edges) of the blades providing increased surface area contacting the material being cut, thus in effect strengthening the blades and making them less susceptible to being nicked, gouged or otherwise flattened at the working edges. The sharper angled surfaces allows the blades to cut cleanly through the material (particularly larger diameter wire) without crushing the material as may be expected if the cutting surfaces were each at one flat angle.--

--[0032] Figure 7 shows another alternate embodiment of the wire stripper with a serrated blade section, which could be either in a single angled form or the multi-angled form described above. Specifically, in this alternate embodiment the elements similar to those of the above described embodiments are referred to with like reference numbers albeit with the suffix "B". Specifically, wire stripper 10B includes lever members 12B and 13B pivotally connected about a hinge point, as in the above embodiment. The lever members 12B and 13B have elongated handles and offset jaws

18B and 19B. Like the first embodiment, the jaws 18B and 19B have working edges 26B and 27B that define a notched stripper section 28B (with recesses 30B and 31B), a pliers section 34B (with teeth 32B and 33B), bolt cutting openings (72B-77B) and a curved blade section 36B. The blade section includes a plurality of serrations 62 and 63 at the working edges. Figure [[4]] Z shows these serrations as being part of a single acute angle (preferably 45 degrees) oblique cutting surface leading from each working edge. However, as mentioned, the cutting surfaces could be multi-angled, with a thin flat acute angled surface (preferably 15 degrees and 0.03 inches wide) leading from the working edges to a second sharper acute angled surface (preferably 45 degrees), as described above. The serrations tend to be self-sharpening and help to remove burrs that can form at the cut edges of the wires (or other materials) as the serrations are worked through the material.--